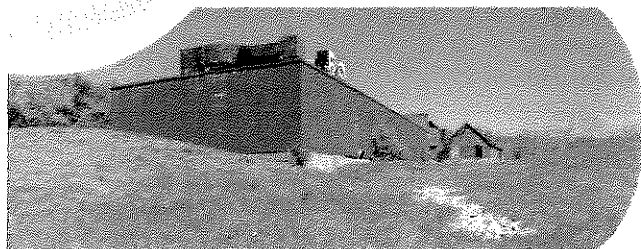




Blackburn & Union Privileges

U.S. EPA | SUPERFUND CLEANUP PROGRAM AT EPA NEW ENGLAND



THE SUPERFUND PROGRAM protects human health and the environment by investigating and cleaning up often-abandoned hazardous waste sites and engaging communities throughout the process. Many of these sites are complex and need long-term cleanup actions. Those responsible for contamination are held liable for cleanup costs. EPA strives to return previously contaminated land and groundwater to productive use.

SITE DESCRIPTION AND THE SUPERFUND PROGRAM:

The Blackburn & Union Privileges Superfund Site located in Walpole, MA was added to the Superfund National Priority List in 1994. Industrial and commercial processes on the site date back to the 1600s. Between 1891 and 1915, the site was used for the manufacturing of tires, rubber goods, and insulating materials.

Asbestos was used in the manufacturing of brake and clutch linings at the site between 1915 and 1937. Various cotton and fabric production processes were conducted at the site from 1937 until 1985. As a result of these industrial operations, soil, sediment and groundwater are contaminated with inorganic chemicals (including asbestos and metals), volatile organic compounds, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, and highly alkaline compounds. Today the boundaries of the site include areas that contamination has come to be located including industrial properties and undeveloped or residential properties.

EPA is dedicated to getting the site cleaned up to appropriate standards that are protective of human health and the environment. In coordination with the Town of Walpole and the Responsible Parties, plans for re-use are being developed and acted on.

PROJECT STATUS:

The Blackburn & Union Site is in the final stages of design for cleanup. The design plans are required to be completed by the Respon-

sible Parties, and approved by EPA. With these design phases almost complete, a timeline for initial work is in place. Although demolition of the mill building is not required under the Consent Decree with the Responsible Parties, the former mill building on the west side of South Street and the concrete garage located on the site will be demolished as a preliminary step to make space for a future groundwater treatment system. As a second step, in the spring of 2015, excavation of soils will be conducted on the east side of South Street.

MILL BUILDING

DEMOLITION DETAILS:

The Responsible Parties have scheduled demolition work to begin in September 2014. They will start by preparing the mill building for demolition. Demolishing and removing this building will take approximately 4 to 5 months. The Responsible Parties will be conducting this work, which will be performed according to applicable laws and regulations. A survey will be completed to identify building materials containing asbestos and similar materials

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that require special handling and disposal. After these materials have been removed, the mill building itself will be demolished in sections with the Responsible Parties employing appropriate precautions as necessary, including dust control. The debris and materials from the mill building will be segregated into different groups of materials (for example, brick, lumber or metal) and transported off site to recycling or disposal facilities appropriate for each type of material.

WHAT NEIGHBORS SHOULD EXPECT:

It's anticipated that the mill building demolition will take 4 to 5 months, and is considered heavy construction work. All access in and out of the property for trucks and equipment will come from South Street (even for the demolition of the concrete garage adjacent to Clark Ave). Truck traffic will increase during the demolition. Trucks will deliver equipment and remove material, and there will be heavy equipment operating on the site daily. This means increased noise in the neighborhood while demolition is happening. Air monitoring will be conducted to measure for dust. If dust increases from work beyond acceptable levels, then work will be stopped, and the problem will be resolved before work continues. The planned work hours are from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday and 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS FOR MILL BUILDING DEMOLITION:

This demolition does include removing some potentially hazardous materials, which means that the Responsible Parties will take precautions to ensure the safety of workers and residents. At times, depending on the work activities, workers

may be wearing protective equipment that complies with OSHA standards in order to prevent coming in direct contact with potentially hazardous materials.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

This is the first step for a series of projects associated with the cleanup of the Blackburn and Union Privileges Superfund Site. The demolition of the mill building will be conducted down to the slab (or floor) of the building. The slab and the building foundation will remain on site and will be used as a temporary cover of the subsurface material until the remainder of the work is completed on the west side of South Street associated with the installation of groundwater treatment system. The Site will continue to be fenced off to prevent unauthorized access after the building demolition until the groundwater treatment system is constructed and a Town parking lot is created. (See below for more information on the Town's activities.)

APPROXIMATE SEQUENCE FOR CLEANUP OF SITE:

Work to clean up the Blackburn and Union Privileges Site is ongoing and will take a number of years in several different locations. EPA will be in communication with residents and the Town of Walpole as the cleanup progresses and we move through each step outlined below.

1. Demolition of the mill building at 55 South Street – Fall 2014
2. Soil removal across the street from mill building at 70 South Street – Spring 2015
3. Mill building floor slab and foundation removal at 55 South Street – Spring 2016

4. Construction of the groundwater treatment system at 65 South Street – Spring 2016
5. Cleanup of Lewis Pond, beyond 2016

TOWN OF WALPOLE UPDATE:

The Town of Walpole plans on taking over most of the parcels associated with the Superfund Site on South Street where they have plans for redevelopment. Such redevelopment would be done in coordination with the Superfund Site Cleanup being conducted by the Responsible Parties and overseen by EPA. For more information on the Town of Walpole's plans, please visit www.walpole-ma.gov or contact Robin Chapell at 508-660-7320 rchapell@walpole-ma.gov

ADDITIONAL CONTACTS:

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